Camp Middlebrook 7th June 1777

My dear friend

I have received your welcome letter of the 27th ultimo. I am glad you have received the letters you mention as it will take off from the force of the accusation which you had against me. I have always written to you by the post & I scarcely remember a single instance that I have failed in paying that tribute to friendship which I think is so justly due — believe me my dear Harry an interruption of that pure friendship which I have experienced to have actuated our hearts which give me infinite pain and would cloud the future prospect of life — I therefore most ardently wish that every means may be made use of by us to keep alive the sacred flame.

The distractions you relate which at present distract our Country will be allay — The people in general have good sense and of that species too which relates to their own preservation — they will find out the diseases and apply the proper

Letter from my friend
H.K. - June 7. 1777

proper remedies. the person who first propos'd an additional bounty to that given by the Continent and those who adopted it were the most bungling politicians who ever had the management of a wretched people

— all the evils of high bounties and depreciation of money is to be lay'd to their Charge, and he who made them knows they are not sufficient to bear it. — and I have been inform'd the same genius prevailed the same set to oppose taxation, high taxation the best remedy for the depreciation of paper. but there is a set who by a specious patriotism have work'd themselves into places through the Colonies — were it not for these, America at present would be formidable to the World, but their dirty local politics have prevented them from exerting themselves in the only means under heaven of effectuating the freedom of America — and these self created things, have hindered the foundation being properly laid in order to be a great people — — look round and you will see too few of the leaders who have properly studied the rise and fall of Empires, the Connection of great events with one another — the temper Manners Customs and Genius of different Ages Kingdoms

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I most devoutly pray God that he would give the people of america to see the things which belong to her political existence and peace

I have spoken to his Excellency the General upon the subject of Col^d Lee and your taking the men who are draughted for nine months into your Regiments — he would have you to take as many of them as you can get and upon the principle that when a man is used to a soldiers life and kindly treated he will wish to continue in it, and tho many of them may go from you at the expiration of nine months yet many will stay — But it is impossible that these people should have the high bounties you mention, he has no Idea of that or have I sufficient knowledge to inform him — I wrote you several times that General Heath would give you an order for your Cloaths ~~and~~ arms & accoutrements as fast as you would produce certificates of the men — The General positively refus'd any thing more on the account that many Colonels had drawn orders for more arms & Cloathing than ~~they could~~ would suffice all the men they will be able to get —

We have just heard by some deserters (whom we have every day) that the enemy have transports come to Amboy from New York sufficient to transport eleven regiments who were to embark to day, their destination a secret, but we suppose for Philadelphia that Idol of their hearts, while the other part attempts to march by land — We hav a very respectable body of troops here but not a man from any state on the east side of Hudson River except the Artillery. what pity it is that th who sat out so well should hold on so ill — we are discipling the men twice a day, in the Manoevres, with but very little of the manual exercises — Yesterday we alarmd the Country for m miles round by a sham fight between two Brigades — ~~[illegible]~~ (Mulghenbergs and Wee which was conducted with great regularity and prop the same kind of exercise is to go thro' the arm

Every hour ~~great~~ proves the great good Consequences resulting from the Battles of Tren & Princeton, and the subsequent actions i the winter. The enemy not able to begin the Campaign until now when we have a respectable Army to oppose them — I know not the determination of Congress yet with respect to Mr Coudre but if they appoint him I shall retire

I am Dear Lucy
Yours affectionately
H Knox

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